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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending September 3, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Fair Week for Field Work: Scattered showers throughout the week brought an abundance of needed moisture. These rainfalls are expected to help restore some of the drier pastures and crops. Some farmers feel it is too late to benefit most of the corn, but there may be some time left to help the soybean crop. Field work was limited to very few days while the rain turned several drought areas to mud. Thunderstorms also brought cooler weather, as it seems fall is beginning to make its presence. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling hay and straw, filling silos, planting barley and winter wheat, plowing, and harvesting peaches, apples, sweet corn, corn silage, potatoes, and tobacco.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 3, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	12	49	36

Crops: Although most crops progressed and conditions improved, very little harvesting or planting was done due to the limited days of field work. Ninety percent of the corn has entered the dough stage, compared to 87 percent last year and 81 percent for the 5-year average. Sixty-five percent has reached the dent stage. This number is far ahead of the 5-year average of 52 percent. The corn crop is maturing very close to average at 17 percent, but remains behind last year at this time by 4 percent. The rain Pennsylvania received did very little to improve the corn condition. Currently, 64 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Corn silage harvesting is slowed somewhat, but remains well ahead of the previous year and the 5-year average at 31 percent harvested. Sixty-seven percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Potato harvesting fell behind this week, as 25 percent were dug last week, which is below the 5-year average of 28 percent. Tobacco harvesting, at 28 percent, is very far behind previous year at this time, which was 63 percent harvested. Last week the alfalfa third cutting, at 90 percent, was ahead of the 5-year average which is 79 percent. In addition, the fourth cutting was falling behind schedule with the averages, at 20 percent. Although progress was pretty slow last week, timothy second cutting is still ahead of schedule at 87 percent. The quality of hay made has remained steady from the previous week, with last week's conditions reported as 10 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

This year's peach harvest is coming to an end at 97 percent, which is up 8 percent from last year's progress. Apple harvesting was productive last

week at 38 percent. This is 8 percent higher than the 5-year average. Recent moisture improved apple conditions, with 1 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 25 percent excellent.

Livestock: After the rainfall from the past week, pastures are replenished and are beginning to green up. However, stored feed is still used for the livestock, as pastures have had very little productivity so far. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 9 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

U.S. as of August 29, 2006: Rain continued to provide drought relief in a broad area stretching from the Plains to the upper Midwest. In the Corn Belt, temperatures and soil moisture levels remained mostly favorable for corn and soybean development. Meanwhile, locally heavy rains dotted the Southwest and most areas from the Plains eastward. Heavy showers and thunderstorms returned to the Southeast and erupted across the upper Midwest on August 24. Toward week's end, heavy showers shifted eastward across the Great Lakes States and settled southward across the Plains and Mid-South.

Warm weather prevailed across most of the Nation, with the exception of the Pacific Coast, Northeast, and portions of the central Great Plains, Southwest, and Florida. Mostly dry conditions across the Ohio River Valley and middle Atlantic Coast States caused crop conditions to decline. Farther east, much cooler air overspread northern New England, where weekly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal.

Corn: Acreage at or beyond the dough stage advanced to 93 percent, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of normal. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all States. Sixty-five percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dent stage, compared with 58 percent last year and 50 percent for the 5-year average. Acreage mature, at 12 percent, was 2 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Maturation was underway in all States except Wisconsin.

Soybeans: Ninety-six percent of the acreage was setting pods or beyond, 1 point behind last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Pod setting progressed ahead of normal in most States. Acreage dropping leaves advanced to 7 percent, compared with 6 percent last year and 5 percent for the 5-year average.

Small Grains: Barley producers had harvested 86 percent of their acreage, 11 points ahead of last year and 16 points ahead of normal. Washington growers remained slightly behind their normal harvest pace despite rapid progress, while all other States were ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 3, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 3, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	76	55	66	-3	2.75	4	17.13	-1.58	67	2,336	235	3,767
Franklin	75	54	66	-1	4.90	5	29.74	8.45	75	2,226	248	3,698
Meadville	74	53	64	-1	2.18	5	23.19	2.04	68	2,171	358	3,616
Mercer	79	53	65	-2	2.68	5	30.29	10.16	72	2,122	165	3,582
Springboro	76	51	64	-4	3.30	6	27.58	9.03	74	1,973	-111	3,381
Warren	75	52	64	-2	4.20	5	31.87	10.65	75	2,040	117	3,477
North Central												
Bradford Region	73	48	61	-1	4.76	5	24.99	3.72	75	1,653	240	3,029
Emporium	79	51	64	2	5.99	5	29.69	8.37	72	2,078	494	3,552
Kane	74	48	61	0	4.51	5	25.52	3.95	64	1,532	144	2,900
Laporte	76	49	61	-5	3.99	6	30.56	10.97	77	1,825	-149	3,242
Lock Haven	81	53	66	-2	5.80	5	26.26	6.92	63	2,392	306	3,897
Port Allegany	77	47	62	-2	5.45	5	24.72	4.67	67	1,775	220	3,176
Renovo	80	47	65	-3	6.50	5	26.62	7.28	71	2,194	108	3,692
Ridgway	74	50	63	1	5.80	5	26.88	5.56	70	1,803	219	3,230
Stevenson Dam	80	55	66	4	6.97	5	25.04	3.72	66	2,226	642	3,718
Towanda	82	52	64	-2	3.17	5	22.00	5.76	66	2,204	214	3,663
Wellsboro	74	47	60	-3	4.82	5	22.17	5.84	65	1,728	228	3,128
Williamsport	82	54	68	-1	8.88	5	26.45	7.34	62	2,579	280	4,084
Northeast												
Hawley	79	50	63	-2	3.93	5	30.90	12.35	58	1,963	256	3,385
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	53	65	-3	3.05	5	22.14	4.10	62	2,379	195	3,862
Susquehanna	78	50	63	0	2.63	5	30.71	10.85	72	2,041	412	3,478
West Central												
Butler	81	54	66	-1	3.07	5	22.06	1.82	67	2,191	144	3,674
New Castle	81	55	67	1	2.06	4	24.84	6.53	67	2,426	378	3,920
Slippery Rock	77	54	67	3	3.20	5	28.27	8.58	74	2,261	413	3,744
Central												
Altoona/Blair	84	52	66	-2	3.90	6	19.14	1.61	61	2,306	120	3,805
DuBois	75	51	63	-2	2.95	5	23.60	3.29	78	2,008	107	3,458
Lewistown	86	53	67	-3	4.24	6	24.52	5.58	61	2,535	141	4,048
Middletown	87	56	70	-2	3.57	4	23.57	4.96	50	2,987	291	4,517
Prince Gallitzi	80	50	66	2	3.17	4	22.49	-0.08	62	1,947	188	3,395
Selinsgrove	86	54	67	-1	7.01	5	29.51	10.11	62	2,479	235	3,984
State College	82	51	65	-2	5.66	4	20.06	2.36	58	2,455	292	3,965
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	80	57	67	-4	3.13	5	26.58	6.27	64	2,684	213	4,198
Lehighton	76	55	65	-5	3.58	6	27.51	7.36	72	2,405	14	3,900
Matamoras	79	51	62	-5	5.26	5	25.93	5.47	67	2,131	-34	3,586
Mt_Pocono	76	51	63	1	4.44	6	31.94	10.30	77	1,940	440	3,369
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	54	68	0	1.40	4	19.99	1.21	62	2,584	391	4,103
Derry	82	54	68	2	2.84	4	24.42	4.88	61	2,233	162	3,720
Myersdale	80	51	65	-3	2.54	4	22.52	1.24	74	1,714	-320	3,131
Mount Pleasant	84	54	68	4	2.51	5	22.62	0.39	65	2,189	340	3,671
Pittsburgh Intl	82	54	67	-2	1.11	5	16.59	-1.12	59	2,506	213	4,013
Connellsville	86	55	71	3	1.73	6	19.56	-1.38	81	2,533	200	4,039
Waynesburg	86	55	69	3	0.79	5	16.09	-3.38	59	2,302	175	3,802
South Central												
Biglerville	88	55	69	-3	2.68	3	23.29	5.92	58	2,730	97	4,257
Everett	81	52	65	-3	3.43	5	18.98	1.88	67	1,879	-292	3,376
Hanover	90	54	69	-2	1.84	3	19.31	1.94	56	2,695	62	4,216
Harrisburg_AP	88	54	70	-2	3.74	4	23.09	4.48	56	2,919	216	4,449
South Mountain	83	52	66	-1	3.65	5	26.90	9.37	62	2,173	-6	3,660
York	89	53	70	-2	1.60	3	15.87	-3.06	52	2,680	60	4,195
Southeast												
Green Lane	81	57	68	-2	4.85	5	29.99	10.25	62	2,740	381	4,258
Hamburg	81	57	67	0	4.16	6	27.78	4.96	71	2,777	611	4,293
West_Chester	83	57	69	-3	3.66	4	25.95	4.60	52	2,639	29	4,151
Lancaster	86	56	70	-1	2.21	4	26.61	6.62	61	2,805	313	4,329
Neshaminy Falls	79	57	67	-4	4.58	5	27.40	4.44	56	2,605	140	4,125
New Holland	84	55	69	-2	2.77	4	20.96	0.97	59	2,823	331	4,343
Philadelphia	83	60	70	-3	5.22	5	24.00	4.45	50	3,250	404	4,797
Philadelphia NE	82	60	69	-4	4.38	5	26.56	7.01	56	3,191	345	4,733
Reading	82	58	68	-2	5.49	4	25.25	4.00	57	2,859	407	4,380
Valley Forge Na	80	57	68	-5	4.43	4	30.47	9.95	63	2,798	31	4,320
Willow Grove	80	58	68	-3	3.98	5	21.38	-1.58	48	2,896	431	4,428

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County received some rainfall last weekend in most parts of the county. Rainfall for the weekend in some areas was 1.4" and some other areas only had 0.4". That was the first rainfall that the county received in a month.

Corn silage is being harvested in the county. Some reports from producers are stating not many ears on some stalks and also ears that are on stalks are not filled out. Lower tonnage is being harvested per acre. A lot of producers are wondering what the test weight will be for corn for grain. Some areas will only have 50% of a crop.

Soybeans are not filling the pods out due to lack of moisture. 30-40% loss is being predicted.

Hay is short and dry. Third cutting is completed. Pasture is also short due to dryness but rain last weekend should help a little bit.

Apples are still looking good, however. The trees are being stressed due to the drought. Size of apples will be smaller in some parts of the county depending on type of soil.

Peaches are almost done being harvested. Most peaches have been irrigated so a decent crop this year.

Green beans are not doing well with lower yields being reported. Pumpkins are also not fairing too well because of dry weather. If the pumpkins have been irrigated, they haven't been doing too bad.

Forecasters are expecting the storm to come up the coast with our area getting some rainfall for the next couple of days through Labor Day weekend. Adams County's crops will surely welcome some rainfall to help them survive and also to replenish topsoil.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Our area received a nice rain in excess of 2 inches on Friday and Saturday. Weather has now turned cool. This will help restore some of the pastures and possibly allow a 5th cutting of alfalfa. Corn will not be affected, however soybeans will benefit. This rain should help the late apple crop attain a decent size. Apple harvest is about two weeks ahead of normal. Corn silage harvest is nearly completed.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Cool Damp Week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - A rainy week that was very much needed. I had 7 1/2 inches of rain in my gage for the week.

COLUMBIACOUNTY, John O Yocum - Received 4+ inches of rain. Probably too late to help most of the corn, but should help soybean & hay.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Some operators are getting ready to make corn silage. The rains have slow field work.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NCRS) - Cooler weather and rain came at the end of the week, which slowed harvesting of crops. Rain added moisture which is good for small grain and cover crop planting. Pastures greened up some after the rain.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - 7 inches of rain from last Saturday to this Saturday turned drought conditions into mud. No field activity this past week and very little expected this week with 1 to 2 inches coming today, Tuesday. Some corn silage was chopped before the rain; much more is to be chopped when the fields dry. Corn and soybeans are maturing very well, corn is nearing black layer and soybeans continue to fill pods. Pastures and hay fields have greened up nicely.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT) - Corn silage harvest continued this week. Moistures on corn silage averaged in the low 60's. Soybean yields are expected to be very low. Pods have no more than 2 small beans in them, and some pods have no beans. Stored feed continued to be used to feed animals normally on pasture, due to no productivity of pasture.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Another extremely wet week with virtually no crop work being completed. Ground is so saturated that sod fields are even soft.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The week started out with heavy rainfall and ended in the same manner. We had anywhere from nine to twelve inches within the area causing small and large stream flooding. The water was out over the stream banks in some areas and caused damage to the crops. Not a very good week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The tropical depression brought us soaking rain on Saturday. Most of the county now has adequate top soil moisture, but it came too late in a few areas to be of much help to the corn and soybeans. Crop conditions continue spotty ranging from poor to excellent. This moisture should really help pastures and later hay cuttings.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 3, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	22	18	17
Corn, dough	90	87	81
Corn, dent	65	59	52
Corn, mature	17	21	16
Corn silage, harvested	31	22	24
Tobacco, harvested	28	63	53
Potatoes, harvested	25	32	28
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	90	92	79
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	20	29	30
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	87	78	79
Peaches, harvested	97	89	89
Apples, harvested	38	27	30

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 3, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	5	29	50	14
Soybeans	1	5	27	50	17
Quality of hay made	0	10	25	57	8
Pasture	9	17	41	28	5
Apples	0	0	1	74	25

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